

**REMARKS**

This Amendment is responsive to the Office Action dated March 26, 2003.

Claims 1-8 were pending in the application. In the Office Action, claims 1-8 were rejected. In this Amendment, claims 1, 2, 3, 6 and 7 have been amended. Claims 1-8 thus remain for consideration.

Applicant submits that claims 1-8 are in condition for allowance and requests reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections in light of the following remarks.

**Claim Objections**

Claims 1-8 were objected to because of informalities.

Applicant has amended claims 1, 2, 3, 6 and 7, and submits that the amendments to claims 1, 2, 3, 6 and 7 render claims 1-8 compliant with all formality requirements. Accordingly, Applicant requests that the objections to the claims be withdrawn.

**§102 and §103 Rejections**

Claims 1-3 and 5-8 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Arimura et al. (U.S. Patent No.: 5,349,479).

Claim 4 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Arimura in view of Beavers et al. (U.S. Patent No.: 6,307,701).

Applicant submits that the independent claims (claims 1 and 6) are patentable over Arimura and Beavers.

Applicant's invention as recited in the independent claims is directed toward a video tape recording/reproducing device and a video tape reproducing device. Each of the claims recites that the device includes a driving means for driving a video tape at a predetermined running speed and a rotatable drum having a plurality of magnetic heads for reproducing video data from the tape. Further, each of the claims recites that "said device is operable to perform a variable speed reproduction in which all of the video data recorded on the video tape is reproduced by changing the tape running speed without changing the drum rotation speed."

Neither Arimura nor Beavers discloses a rotating drum based video tape apparatus that is operable to perform a variable speed reproduction in which all of the video data recorded on a video tape is reproduced by changing the tape running speed without changing the drum rotation speed. Accordingly, Applicant believes that claims 1 and 6 are patentable over Arimura and Beavers - taken either alone or in combination - on at least this basis.

Claims 2-5 depend on claim 1. Since claim 1 is believed to be patentable over the cited references, claims 2-5 are believed to be patentable over the cited references on the basis of their dependency on claim 1.

Claims 7 and 8 depend on claim 6. Since claim 6 is believed to be patentable over the cited references, claims 7 and 8 are believed to be patentable over the cited references on the basis of their dependency on claim 6.

Applicant respectfully submits that all of the claims now pending in the application are in condition for allowance, which action is earnestly solicited.

It is submitted that these claims, as originally presented, are patentably distinct over the prior art cited by the Examiner, and that these claims were in full compliance with the requirements of 35 U.S.C. §112. Changes to these claims, as presented herein, are not made for the purpose of patentability within the meaning of 35 U.S.C. §§101, 102, 103 or 112. Rather, these changes are made simply for clarification and to round out the scope of protection to which Applicant is entitled.

Statements appearing above with respect to the disclosures in the cited references represent the present opinions of the Applicant's undersigned attorney and, in the event that the Examiner disagrees with any such opinions, it is respectfully requested that the Examiner specifically indicate those portions of the respective reference providing the basis for a contrary view.

If any issues remain, or if the Examiner has any further suggestions, he/she is invited to call the undersigned at the telephone number provided below.

The Examiner is hereby authorized to charge any insufficient fees or credit any overpayment associated with the above-identified application to Deposit Account No. 50-0320.

The Examiner's consideration of this matter is gratefully acknowledged.

Respectfully submitted,

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